

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #28

November 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all CARTS members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that your football team has been winning! Fall brings not only football to the Carolinas, but also coin shows. I also hope that you have been successful in finding some new tokens for your collection, but if you haven't yet, there's still hope. The combined CARTS/SETS meeting is just around the corner. There will be all kinds of tokens and medals at this meeting, so I hope you can make it to Atlanta (actually just outside Atlanta) for this meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Super 8 Motel in Villa Rica, Georgia on Saturday, November 13th. The Super 8 has a meeting room on the second floor and the meeting will begin at 9am. We will have ample time for swapping and selling that morning, with a short powerpoint program on Odd-Shaped Trade Tokens at noon given by yours truly.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Super 8 for the very reasonable rate of \$51.99 for the Friday night before the meeting. I have stayed at this establishment and it is OK, but don't expect the Hilton. The room was clean, but the furniture was not brand new. There is a free continental breakfast included in the room rate, but the fare is light. (No bacon and eggs....) For those taking their wives you may want a better room and there is a Best Western immediately next door which seems to be a nicer place. Reservations at the Super 8 must be made at least one week prior to the date of the show. Cancellations must be made 48 hours in advance. The phone number for the motel is 770-459-8000 and you need to mention TOKEN SOCIETY to get the special rates.

The motel is located at 128 Hwy 61 Connector, Villa Rica, GA 30180. Their email address is: super8villarica@mindspring.com. See above for the phone number. The motel is located immediately off of exit 24 of I-20 about 18 miles west of downtown Atlanta. If you are traveling from North or South Carolina, turn right off the exit ramp and look immediately to your right. The Super 8 is located immediately behind the Krystal and the Kentucky Fried Chicken / Taco Bell. For those arriving on Friday night, I have tentatively planned a dinner excursion to the local O'Charley's restaurant located at that same exit.

I hope we have a good turnout from CARTS at this meeting. There were over 20 members at the SETS meeting which I attended recently, but I don't expect that many to show up in Georgia. But it would be nice to have more than 5 or 6 CARTS members in Villa Rica. See you then.....

Regards,
Tony Chibbaro,
President, Carolina Token Society

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

WANTED

**ALL TOKENS AND INFORMATION REGARDING
CHAS PICK, GEO. KUEHL, GEO. KUEHL & BRO, AND
L. BOCHE.**

**ALSO LOOKING FOR PARKING TOKENS FROM ALL
STATES; TRANSIT AND CARWASH FROM
COLORADO; AS WELL AS ALL EXONUMIA FROM
BOONE, IA; AMES, IA; MADRID, IA; VISALIA, CA AND
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO.**

**John Kent
6545 Northwind Dr
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
Token7@hotmail.com**

A LAWNDALE, NC DOPE STAND TOKEN

Don Bailey

Recently I was fortunate enough to acquire the token shown below. It is interesting for a couple of reasons. First, it contains an error, and second, it may be that even in the Carolinas there are now some folk unfamiliar with Dope Stands and Dope Wagons.



**T. D. Wallace / Dope / Stand / Lawndale / N. C. //
Good For / 10¢ / In Trade – R, Br, 23mm.**

First let's discuss Dope Stands and Dope Wagons, because regardless of the wording on the token Wallace ran a Dope Wagon. In the South of not so long ago "dope" meant "soda" or "pop", that is a soft drink. So a Dope Stand was a location where one could buy a soda. Likewise a Dope Wagon was a push cart of some sort that was rolled through cotton mills (and perhaps other factories) so that people would not need to leave their work station to buy a soda. And most dope wagons and stands also sold packaged sandwiches, crackers, peanuts and such. Below is a photo of an early dope wagon. You can just see a few soda bottles peaking above the edge of the wagon.



Now to the error, the token was intended to read “D. T. Wallace”, not “T. D. Wallace”. For the gentleman who ran the dope wagon, and for whom the tokens were made, was DeWitt Talmadge Wallace. (In addition to the token shown a 5¢ token is known, and it is reported that 25¢ tokens also exist, or once existed.)



D. T. Wallace

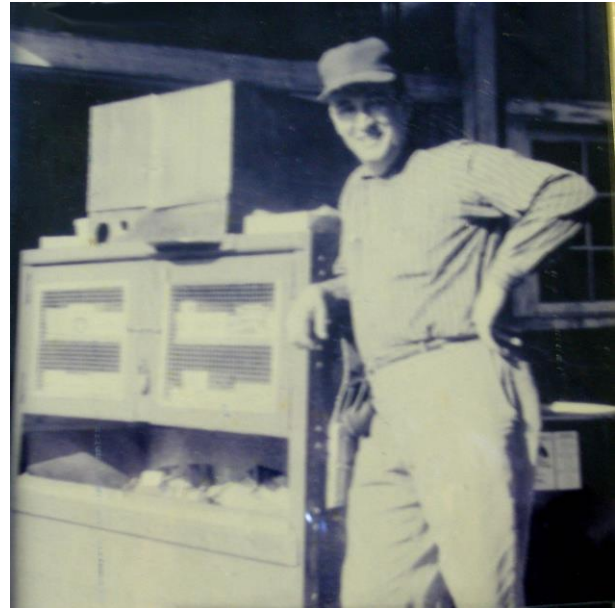
DeWitt Wallace was born March 13, 1890, a son of Evanda Wallace and Amanda Hamrick Wallace, in the Beaver Dam section of Cleveland County. About 1899 Evanda Wallace died and Amanda decided that financial prospects were brighter in Lawndale where she could do what was then called “public work” at Cleveland Mills in Lawndale. (Cleveland Mills Co. began operations in 1888, and operated until mid 2001. The plant produced knit fabric for clothing.)

As a boy Wallace attended the old Piedmont School in Lawndale, a school as it happens with an outstanding program and reputation. Wallace’s first job of which we have any knowledge was in the Lawndale ice plant. But in 1934 the “dope concession” at Lawndale Mills became available and Wallace began his business.

Initially Tal Wallace, as he was known to all, pulled a big coaster wagon from his home, a few blocks away, to the mill. From this wagon he sold sodas and sandwiches he had made in his home. At some point the coaster wagon was replaced by a bigger dope wagon with shelves, a steamer for hot food and an ice compartment for cold drinks, and the home made sandwiches were replaced by those from a professional sandwich maker. And the wagon was no longer rolled between Wallace’s home and the mill. There was a

chicken wire “garage” in a mill warehouse where the wagon was stored.

The picture below shows John Wease with the dope wagon used by Tal Wallace.



For years Tal Wallace made the rounds in the mill for each shift. But about 1947 he hired John Wease, a son-in-law, to operate the wagon in daytime and Flay Richards, a neighbor, to operate it at night. Tal became known as the “dope stand manager”. And business must have been pretty good. For at some point he became the owner of the ice plant.

But dope wagons began to disappear, being replaced by vending machines. In early 1962 nearby Dover Mills did away with their dope wagon concession, and in March of that year Wallace retired from the dope wagon business and began to manage his ice plant full time. It is worthy of note that Wallace’s passing essentially coincided with the passing of dope wagons from the cotton mills. He died March 31, 1963.

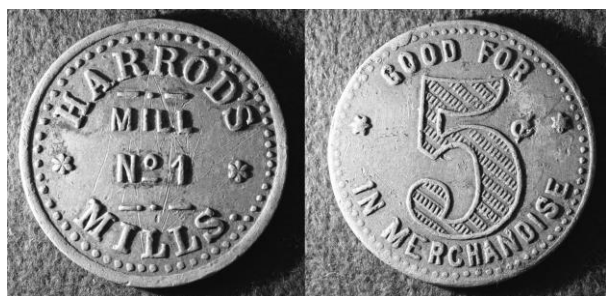
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- The author is grateful to Mrs. John Wease for information, and assistance in gathering information, for this article.
- The photo of the early dope wagon is courtesy of the Textile Heritage Center at Cooleemee, NC, and was taken by Robert Thomas.
- The photo of John Wease with the Dope Wagon is from the Lawndale Museum.
- The photo of DeWitt Wallace is courtesy of Richard T. Wallace, a grandson of D. T.

New Finds from South Carolina

Tony Chibbaro

New finds from South Carolina still prove to be elusive, but two tokens I recently obtained provide some interesting aspects to consider. The first token examined is my most recent acquisition, coming my way courtesy of CARTS member Jim Cooke of Virginia. Jim attended this year's NTCA convention in Fargo, North Dakota and I was able to purchase the token illustrated below from him there. He had originally attributed it to a locality in Georgia, but I persuaded him that its true home was South Carolina and, for a price, he allowed me to come home with it.



The token is a maverick from Mill No. 1 of Harrod's Mills. The reverse carries the standard wording "Good For 5¢ In Merchandise" on a 29mm aluminum planchet. While I already had a 25¢ token from this issuer and had made a tentative attribution to South Carolina, the appearance of the reverse on this 5¢ specimen helped to solidify the attribution. I had obtained the 25¢ token a few years back from a collector in the Aiken area. After owning the token for a while, and with some help from CARTS member Bob King, I finally settled on an attribution to the Charleston County town of Enterprise. A sawmill operator by the name of W.P. Harrod was listed there for a period of 13 years – from 1900 to 1912. In 1905 a second location in the nearby Colleton County community of Jacksonboro was listed, providing two mills in operation simultaneously. General stores were listed in both locations, and a cotton gin was operated in partnership with a Mr.

Limehouse. All the information found in business directories fit the information found on the token, but there was always a nagging feeling that a mistake in attribution was highly possible because of the lack of Harrod's first name or initials on the token.

This nagging feeling dissipated with the realization that the reverse die used to strike the newly obtained 5¢ specimen was used to strike another Charleston area token, with also a third token from the Lowcountry struck using a similar die. While being struck by the same diesinker does not prove that the Harrod's Mill token is from the area, the odds are greatly increased by my hunch that this unknown diesinker was from the Charleston area and that he struck tokens sparingly and only for area merchants. While I am not 100% certain of this conjecture, I am certain that the only self-identified (with city & state) South Carolina tokens struck by this diesinker are from Charleston. These two additional tokens were also struck in the same time period that Harrod operated his sawmills – 1902-04 for W.J. Bennett's restaurant at 49 Calhoun Street and 1902-08 for J.H. Bagby's restaurant 488 Meeting Street.

The appearances of these three tokens are all similar – 29mm aluminum planchets featuring reverses with large numerals incorporating an unusual cross-hatching pattern. The size of the tokens in itself sets them apart. Most 5¢ tokens issued in South Carolina are 21mm or smaller, but these are almost the size of a half dollar. With the unusual cross-hatching on the numerals, the tokens stand out from their brethren. I know of no other similar tokens from South Carolina. I will accede that there may be others from neighboring states of which I am unaware, so if some of you readers have similar tokens, please let me know.

This month's second new find is, thankfully, not a maverick token. If it had been, it would have been impossible to attribute it to South Carolina. Illustrated below is a 26mm aluminum token issued by the Walter J. Bryson Paving Company of Columbia, SC. And even though Columbia is shown plainly at the bottom of the obverse, I came to learn that the business was not located in South Carolina at all.



I spent the better part of 2 hours looking for evidence of this company in my business directories, all to no avail. I then searched online and within a reasonable amount of time I determined that the company had been headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. And after speaking with the grandson of the company owner, I had a short synopsis of his grandfather's business concerns.

Walter J. Bryson was born in 1883 in Live Oak, Florida, living there until young adulthood. Both the 1900 and 1910 US census show him residing in Live Oak, in the latter census as married with three children and working as a timber contractor. Despite only having a third grade education, Bryson proved to be quite the entrepreneur, founding several companies that built roads and subdivisions not only in Florida, but throughout the

Southeast. At least two of his companies participated in the Florida land boom in the 1920s. In 1925, the Brywil Realty Company, a partnership between Bryson and James Y. Wilson, began construction of Sapphire Shores subdivision, one of the first in Sarasota. His paving company, the one that issued the token, paved one of the first roads between Jacksonville and Sarasota – using mule teams to grade the roadbed and paving it with brick. Workers stayed in tents at the work site and were supplied with necessities at the commissary, hence the need for the tokens.

Bryson's last business endeavor was a building supply and retail lumber company located on West Beaver Street in Jacksonville. He operated this business well into his 70s. According to his grandson, he died at the age of 83 or 84, leaving a legacy of being one of Florida's early contractors.

It would be interesting to find out what project Bryson worked on in Columbia. Perhaps a future search of newspaper microfilm will prove fruitful in determining which roads in South Carolina's capital city had been paved by his Florida-based paving company.

“CLACKERS” OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COAL CULTURE

Lamar Bland

It will come as a surprise to some readers that mining tokens were used in North Carolina. It will surprise others that they were issued in central, not western, North Carolina – from industry situated where the Deep River borders Chatham and Lee counties. At least 3 mines operated there – in Gulf, Egypt, and Farmville. The best known were Egypt, located in the town of that name (which later became Cumnock), and Carolina Coal, located in Farmville (which later became known as Coal Glen). They operated off-and-on for approximately a hundred years, beginning in the

1850's. Much information about these mines appears in “Egypt Coal Mine” and “Coal Glen Mine Disaster” on the Internet. The latter site lists valuable articles about Coal Glen on a web-page designed and recently up-dated by Paul F. Wilson.

Egypt was the first mine of these two, opening in the 1850's. Its best years were the periods 1888-95 and 1915-1922. Otherwise it suffered 3 closings or bankruptcies, caused variously by The Civil War, explosions in 1895 and 1900 with heavy loss of life, and flooding. At some point during the successful mining years, the Egypt Mine Store was built. This likely happened in the 1888-95 period because the town of Egypt was renamed Cumnock in 1915.

I found my first photograph of the Egypt Store on the “Egypt” web-site mentioned above. I subsequently drove to Chatham County and found

a restaurant in Cumnock which had old newspaper clippings about both mining cultures on its walls. An article from the Sanford Herald of April 1, 1937, published the same photograph of the Egypt Store. Below is a copy of what may be the original photograph, shown to me by Bill Bost, who owns the Cumnock restaurant (Bud's Barbeque). I am grateful to him for permission to reprint this copy.



Underneath the newspaper's photograph, the text indicates that John H. Kennedy bought the Egypt Store in 1913 and operated it for miners until the mine closed (in 1922). Kennedy issued tokens for use in the community store. A sample token appears in the following photographs.



**(star) John H. Kennedy (star) / 100 / In Merchandise
// (Orco reverse) – R, Br, 32mm**

He issued similar tokens in denominations of 50, 25, 10, 5, and 1 cent. North Carolina researcher Bob King indicates that Kennedy, in addition to merchandising, had business in lumber manufacturing from 1921 through 1935. During Kennedy's time, the old Egypt store was replaced with a newer general store. It was likely a place where Kennedy's tokens were also used. The "newer" building still stands in Cumnock, where I photographed it this summer.



The later mine of the two, located a short distance east of Cumnock, was Coal Glen. Established by the Carolina Coal Company in 1921, it was troubled by the same problems which affected the Egypt mine. Chief of these was the tendency of Deep River coal-beds to explode. An explosion at Coal Glen on May 27, 1925, caused 53 deaths. Nine decades later, this remains North Carolina's worst industrial disaster! Mine officials declared bankruptcy in 1930.

Today, this property is privately owned by General Timber, Inc, a company which operates a lumber business there. All of the original buildings have vanished, though it is possible to walk on the property and see the old mine entrance. Because of the huge disaster, however, photographs of the original village exist. Many of them are preserved on Paul Wilson's web-page which I previously mentioned.

Of special interest there are two which were published in The State magazine issues of Feb, 1981, and June, 1987. They show the original mine opening with people facing it on the day of the disaster. In the background, these people are ringed by several office-like wooden buildings. I mention the buildings because they suggest a company store was in the village. Wilson's web-page contains confirmation of this assumption in the interview with Margaret Wicker, a local resident who was 7 when the explosion occurred. She said:

"They had a company store just for the people that lived here. People could go by and get anything they wanted, get it on credit, run an account. They had a commissary

and they could buy groceries and things there with scrip. They called it “clacker.”

Wicker implies that the store may have stood in an opposite direction from the mouth of the mine – closer to worker housing. My photograph below (a copy of one of Bill Bost’s originals) shows that location.



The building’s location is made more uncertain because of the statement of a General Timber staff member who told me there once was a “pay house” near the “hoist structure” which provided ventilation for the mine. Such a small building is visible near the curved pipe “hoist structure” in Wilson’s on-line photograph from “The Site as it is Today.” (That small building no longer stands.)

Were the “pay house” and the “company store” different buildings?

Wherever it in fact stood, that company store circulated “clackers,” which today are among the rarest, most sought-after, North Carolina tokens. Below are photographs of a 5 “Merchandise Only” token issued by the Carolina Coal Company. Like Kennedy, the company issued tokens in the other 5 denominations: 1, 10, 25, 50 and \$1.



Carolina Coal Co. / 5 / (three stars) // (Orco reverse)
– R, Br, 19mm

The Deep River coal area has remained largely unknown to most North Carolinians. I found only one historical signpost referring to the Egypt mine, located where the road to Cumnock intersects with highway 64 between Pittsboro and Siler City. No signs indicate that Coal Glen was nearby.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

At the NTCA national token show in Fargo, ND September 3rd the annual James J. Curto Award for best exonomia book was presented to Tennessee author Franc P. Connor. Connor’s book *School Lunch and Related Tokens of the United States* won the award over half a dozen other entries.

Connor’s book covers school lunch tokens from all 50 states as well as “maverick” school lunch tokens, whose origin remains unknown.

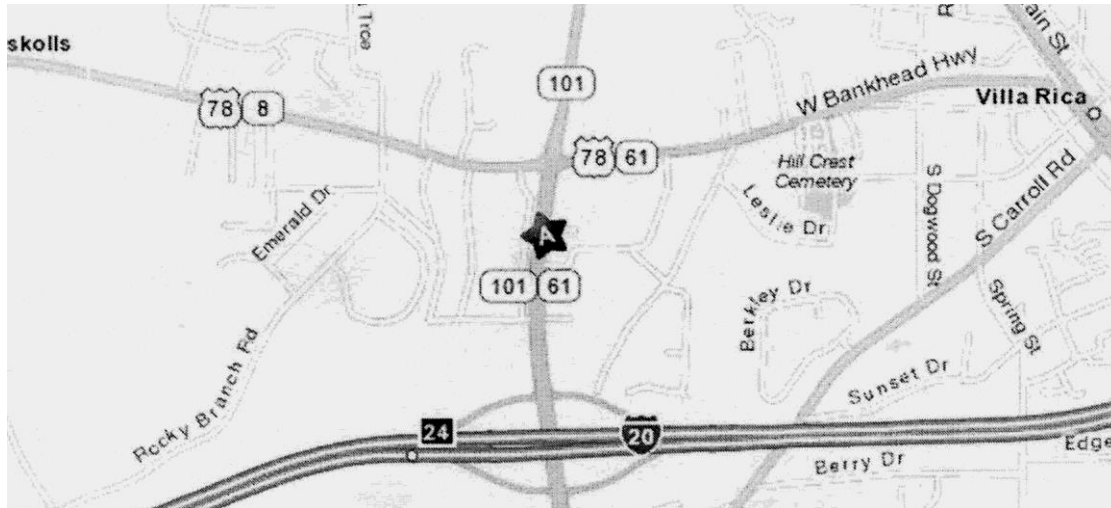
And this brings to mind the newsletter you are reading, and its quality. While it is immodest to say so, your editor believes that CARTSNEWS is one of the better regional token publications. (I

dare nor say best.) But of course it could be better. Here’s how. Each member of CARTS should do two things. Let your editor know if there is something you would like to see added to CARTSNEWS, and send the editor something to be published in CARTSNEWS. This thing to be published could be a new find, a classified ad, a letter to the editor, or an article about some token, or token issuer. Or it could be some other thing you think might be of interest to the membership.

Remember, it’s like Smoky Bear and forest fires. Only you can improve your club and your newsletter.

SEE YOU ALL IN VILLA RICA ON THE 13TH.

MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF SUPER 8 IN VILLA RICA, GA



CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

I WANT TOKENS FROM ANY PEANUT COMPANY – Planters, Columbian, Spanish National, what have you – from NC, VA, anywhere. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah NC 28729, ELADON@MORRISBB.NET.

WANTED: ODD-SHAPED TOKENS AND TOKENS "GOOD FOR" ODD THINGS OR ODD VALUES. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 (home phone: 803-252-1881) (email: chibbaro@mindspring.com)

WANT UNIDENTIFIED MAVERICK TOKENS, ESPECIALLY INGLE SYSTEM. Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr, Brevard, NC 28712 828-883-8028 tokenaddict@citcom.net

FOR TRADE

TRADE FOR OTHER NC MILL DESIRABLE 3" SLOTTED, TIN COTTON BALE TAG (NUMBERED), COATS GIN CO., COATS, N.C.??? Business operated at least 65 years ago, sending its cotton to nearby Erwin, to national destinations via Dunn railroad, or internationally via Wilmington shipping? Lamar Bland: blandl@elon.edu 919-383-6514.

FOR SALE

3 DIFFERENT (10, 25 & 100) TIVERTON PLANTATION WORKER CHITS Listed as Chibbaro Wedgefield, SC J10, J25 & J100. All are listed as R-5's. They are made of Cardstock and measure about 38mm X 76mm. Used but in nice collectible condition. Best offer! Steven Kawalec P.O. Box 4281 Clifton, NJ 07012 owlprowler@aol.com

CARTS Membership and Dues: Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.